

more on education. But the fact is what is the real issue that is keeping us here?

The real issue is the President has demanded a blanket amnesty for millions of illegal aliens in our society. So all this money that he is talking about, a little more for education, a little more for health care, will be totally negated even if we give in to the President because we will be then adding millions of more people into eligibility for these same government programs.

The President is keeping us here in order to pressure Congress to issue a blanket amnesty for millions of illegal aliens and then thus making them eligible for every government benefit that supposedly should be going to the American people.

This is a noble cause for us to stand our ground here in Congress to protect the American people, not to let the President bring in millions of illegal aliens in order to consume the scarce resources available for them in health care, Social Security, and education.

ISSUE IS WHAT ARE WE SPENDING MONEY ON?

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is apparent to all of us that the question is not how much is enough. We are already spending more than we ought to be. The majority voted to spend \$645 billion when you raise the caps. The President did not ask us but for \$637 billion.

The issue is what are we spending the money on? That is why we are here. That is what we are arguing about.

The truth of the matter is most of us on this side of the aisle want to spend more money on our rural hospitals and our health care providers and less money on the insurance company HMOs than the Republicans have put in the bill. And the truth of the matter, even Senator JOHN MCCAIN pointed out that there is \$21 billion in this legislation that is just pure pork.

Every newspaper in the country has been editorializing on the fact that the majority has stuffed this bill with pork for partisan purposes to help folks that are in tough races.

So let us get the pork out, and let us save our rural hospitals that are about to close in my district. Let us increase the reimbursements to our health care providers. And let us not give the lion's share to the big insurance companies.

REIMBURSEMENTS TO HMO'S AND MANAGED CARE

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring some clarity to the issue

that we just debated and voted on, and that is this issue of reimbursements to HMOs and managed care.

I no longer have a managed care institution in Montana. The one that was there was forced to close down a year ago. I sat down with HCFA, the Clinton administration, and that HMO to try to keep it alive a year ago. And one of the things that I discovered is that when the Clinton administration forced the closure of that HMO, it knew that it was going to cost more to provide health care to those seniors under the fee-for-service Medicare than it would under the HMO. And this was a provider-based HMO.

I thought to myself, why in the world would they do that, would they force people into poor coverage, no prescription drug coverage, and higher deductibles when they knew it was going to cost more? Then it dawned on me. The Clinton administration wants to destroy managed care, Medicare+Choice.

What we have here is Democrats coming to this floor pretending that they want to keep those seniors who have that program covered, when the reality is they want to destroy that program because they do not want seniors to have a choice, but they want to blame Republicans for doing it. And it is wrong, and they are wrong for doing it. We did the right thing by voting that resolution down.

CONGRESS HAS MORE TIME THAN MONEY

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, we are still here this evening because we have more time than we have money. And when it comes right down do it, the question of the day is "how much is enough?" We have passed appropriations bills through this House. We have passed appropriation bills that met our budget. As we went into the conference negotiations with the Senate, the numbers got bid up.

The President now has gotten almost everything I think he had asked for originally as far as the dollars included in his original budget. But he is demanding more. And that is why we are still here, because we have more time than we have money and more time than the American people have in their tax dollars to continue shoveling into Washington, D.C.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to pass a Medicare package, to pass a tax relief package. And all those things are going down to the President, and he is insisting on a veto. I think that is a wrong thing to do. It is the wrong thing to do for the people of this country, for the people of South Dakota, to the rural hospitals, the home

health care agencies, the nursing homes, those who need this assistance. We do the right thing.

Let us pass this legislation, and let us get the President to sign it, and then we can go home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning I was detained at a meeting on class size reduction and got here too late to cast my vote on rollcall No. 570, approval of the Journal. I ask unanimous consent that my statement be put in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan? There was no objection.

REPUBLICANS ARE PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND SURPLUS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in the House have passed domestic discretionary spending that has kept within our budget. In fact, as a percent of gross domestic product, it is the lowest since 1974.

Now, some of our opponents on the other side of the aisle would like to say that we have passed these larger and larger budgets, but the truth is we have been in negotiation with the White House and we have tried to reach an agreement with him.

As other speakers have said earlier, we have matched him on most of the bills that have been passed. There are just a few outstanding that are still being negotiated. But the President wants to continue to add more and more money in and start more and more new programs.

We are protecting Social Security. We are protecting the surplus on Social Security. We are protecting the surplus for Medicare. We have even passed a bill that gives some tax relief and also strengthens Medicare by adding more than \$12 billion and to strengthen hospitals, including more than \$1 billion for rural hospitals. In Kansas, rural hospitals are in desperate need of this legislation and this bill. But the President is holding it hostage and is refusing to do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just hope that he will sign these bills into law and we can finish this session.

PRESIDENT THREATENS TO VETO FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON TELEPHONES

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are still here tonight for one very simple